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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

22 August 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Science and Technology)

SUBJECT : NRO Staff

REFERENCE : Memo for DD/S&T from DAD/OSA, Dated 18 August 1963; Subject: "Role of the Director, NRO"

[Redacted]

1. Having said what was said in the reference, I would like to "extend my remarks" with regard to the role of the NRO Staff. It seems to me that the Staff, as it is presently composed, does not reflect the multi-service composition which is implicit in the title "National Reconnaissance Office" and the objective of establishing a true "National Reconnaissance Program".

2. The principal assignments, beginning with the Director, NRO Staff, are all tightly held by USAF. To my knowledge there is only a smattering of Navy and Army in the act, despite the existence of Program C. There is one Navy officer assigned to General Greer on the West Coast and aside from that the composition appears to be principally wearers of the light blue suit. The Director, NRO Staff, is an extremely capable but narrowly parochial Air Force Brigadier General. Historically he has been diametrically opposed to any active inclusion of CIA in programs which he regards as essentially the birthright of USAF. I admire his tenacity and his pride in his Service, but I submit that under his leadership and as principal staff adviser to the D/NRO, his viewpoint is anything but catholic on interdepartmental matters and programs.

3. Since a true NRP does involve all elements of the DOD concerned with covert reconnaissance, I would suggest that it might be wise to propose that the Director, NRO Staff be an assignment subject to rotation between Services, and further that a tour of two years be proposed for each successive incumbent. I personally believe that this sort of rotation, practiced by other DOD elements

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including the JCS, would tend to diminish pragmatically the ascendant role of any single Service. It also has another advantage, and that is that it can be proposed in the abstract without in any way reflecting on the career or performance of the present incumbent or the organized ambitions of his Service to control the destinies of the NRP.

15/

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Deputy Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

cc: DDCI
SA/DCI [Redacted]

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DAD/OSA:JACunningham, Jr. [Redacted]

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